

# North American Transportation Statistics Project: Status Update



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# **North American Transportation Statistics Interchange: Background**

- **Established in 1991**
- **Transportation and Statistical Agencies of Canada, Mexico and the United States**
- **Annual meetings**
- **XV Interchange: Ottawa, Ont. May 2000**
- **XVI Interchange: Mexico City, September 2001**



# **North American Transportation Statistics Interchange: Purpose**

- **Forum to Exchange Key Information on Transportation Statistics and Analysis**
- **Opportunity to Discuss Critical Issues Related to Transportation Information Across North America**
- **Initiate Discussions for Cooperative North American Activities in the Area of Transportation Statistics and Analysis**



# **North American Transportation Statistics Interchange: Structure**

- **Annual Interchange Meetings Hosted by Canada, Mexico or the U.S., on a Rotating Basis**
- **Working Groups Established on Specific Topics and Initiatives.**
  - ➔ Working Group on Maritime and Trade Statistics
  - ➔ Working Group on North American Transportation Statistics Project



# **NATS Project Objectives**

- **To Identify Key Information That Will Help Provide a Comprehensive View of Transportation in North America**
- **To Characterize Transportation Activity and Impacts Across and Between Canada, Mexico and the U.S.**
- **To Reveal Specific Data Comparability Differences Within and Across Countries**
- **To Identify Data Gaps**
- **To Begin Discussions for Reducing Comparability Differences and Data Gaps Through Cooperative Activities**



# NATS Working Group Partners

## United States

- Bureau of Transportation Statistics
- Census Bureau

## Mexico

- Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática
- Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes
- Instituto Mexicano del Transport

## Canada

- Statistics Canada
- Transport Canada





# Structure and Project Outputs

- **Project outcomes have included reports in print and electronic formats:**
  - ➔ Summary Level Report: *North American Transportation Highlights* (Dec. 1999)
  - ➔ Full Report: *North American Transportation in Figures* (October 2000)
- **Next effort: Dynamic Internet database**



# Structure and Outputs: Transportation Subjects

- **Country Overview**
  - Demographic & Economic Data
- **Transportation & Economy**
- **Transportation Safety**
- **Energy & Environment**
- **Domestic Freight Activity**
- **North American Trade**
- **International Trade**
- **Domestic Passenger Travel**
- **North American Travel**
- **International Travel**
- **System Extent and Infrastructure**
- **Vehicles/Vessels and Activity**





# Structure and Outputs

- **Over 90 data tables with supporting maps/figures**
- **3 languages**
  - English, Spanish and French
- **Data Years: 1990, 1995 and 1996**
- **Appendices**
  - statistical overview, technical documentation, reference resources, tables in U.S. measures



# Some General Lessons Learned

- **Definite learning curve within and across the 3 countries**
- **Difficulty in Discussing Data Availability in Abstract**
- **Project with a smaller scope may have been more feasible and timely**
- **Improved Understanding of Each Country's Individual Data**



# Some General Lessons Learned

- **Definitions, Sources and Methodology do differ**
- **Data gaps exist and differ among**
- **Additional analysis needed for greater understanding of differences**
- **Potential Value of Extending Time Series**
- **Value of NAICS for economic data**



# Specific Case Study: North American Trade

- Trends
- NATS Lessons Learned



# North American Trade and Transportation Trends

- **Importance of NAFTA Trade**
- **Modal Trends**
- **Geographic Distributions**
  - Border Crossings
  - States



## Value of U.S. Merchandise Trade with Canada and Mexico Compared to Trade with Rest of the World: 1994-2000

	Total US international trade (million current \$)	Trade with NAFTA (million current \$)	Trade with rest of the world (million current \$)	Ratio of US-NAFTA to all US trade (Percent)
1994	1,175,883	342,923	832,960	29.2
1995	1,328,285	379,989	948,296	28.6
1996	1,420,364	421,192	999,172	29.7
1997	1,557,472	475,382	1,082,090	30.5
1998	1,594,000	502,715	1,091,285	31.5
1999	1,717,587	558,987	1,158,600	32.5
2000	1,997,306	653,270	1,344,036	32.7
Percent Change from 1994 to 2000	69.9	90.5	61.4	
Annual growth rate	9.2	11.3	8.3	

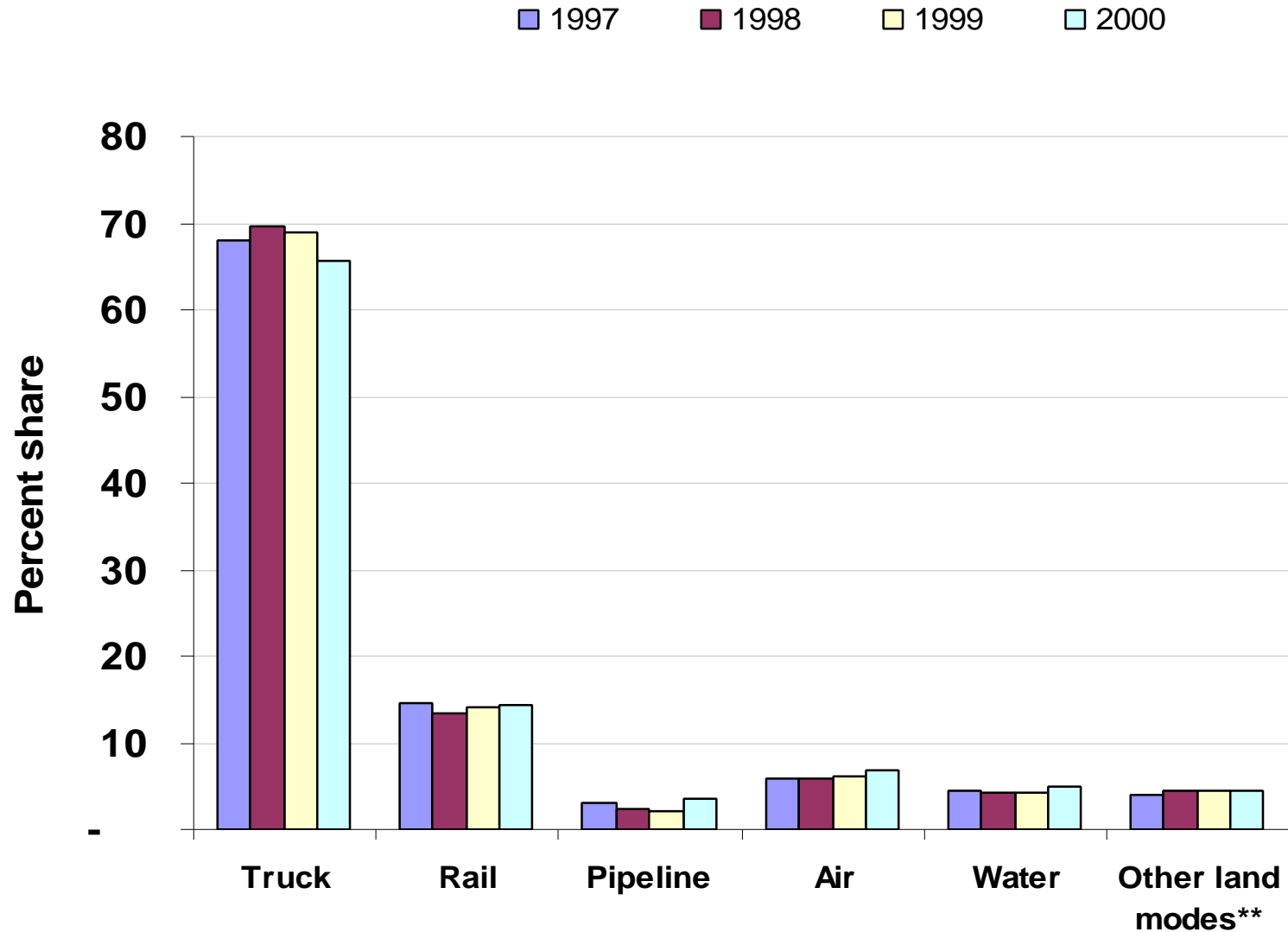
**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, special tabulation, April 2001.





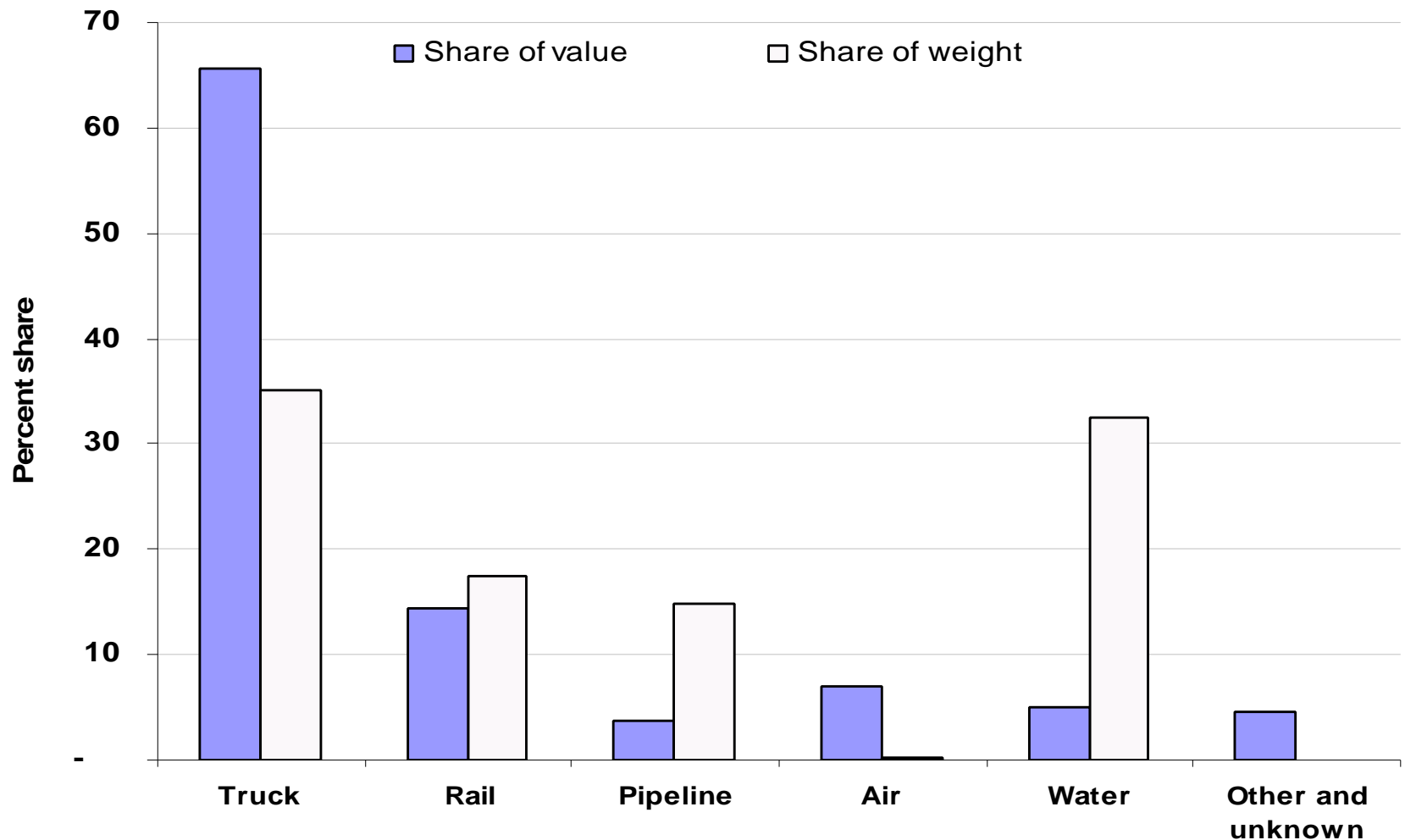


# Modal Shares of U.S. NAFTA Trade: 1997-2000



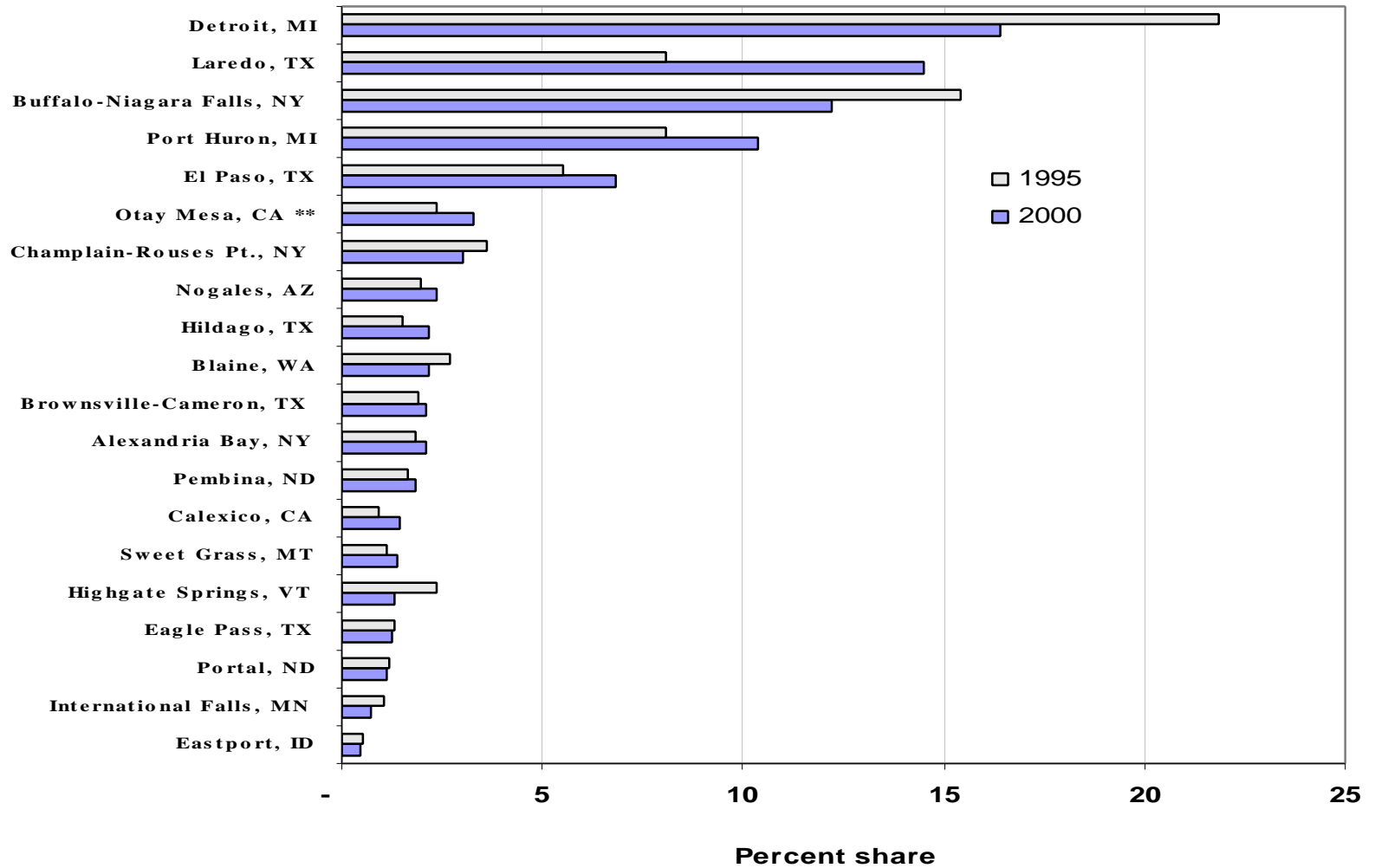
# Importance of Trucking

## Modal Share of U.S. Merchandise NAFTA Trade by Value and Weight: 2000

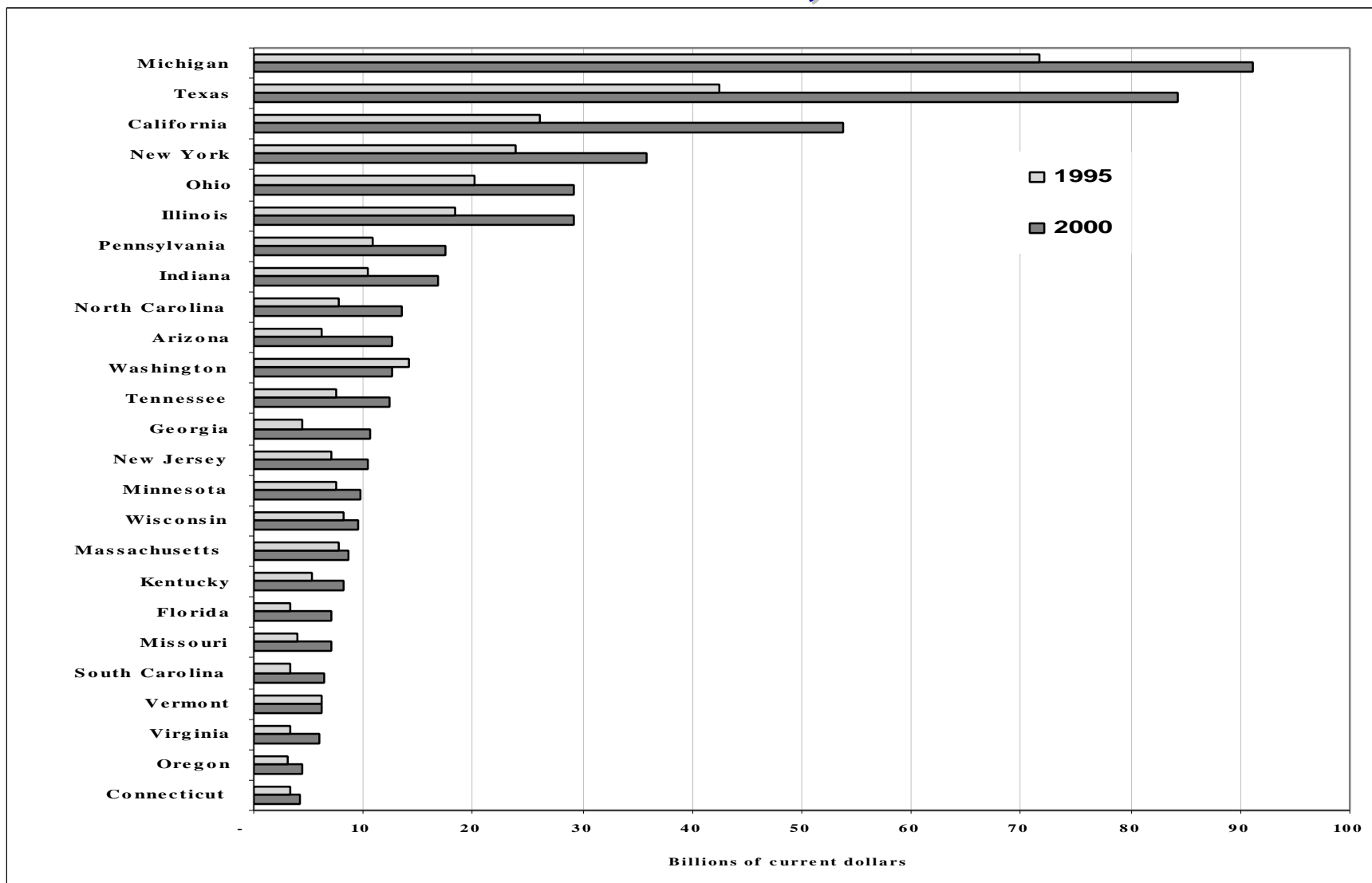


# Trade Growth: Impact on Border Ports/Crossings

**Port Share of U.S. NAFTA Trade by All Surface Modes:  
1995 and 2000**



# Top U.S. Origins and Destinations for NAFTA Land Trade, 1995-2000



# North American Trade: Lessons Learned

- **Lesson:** Are notable gaps that impede ability to fully assess North American trade and transport trends. Examples:
  - weight data--various issues
  - method of transportation definitions and time series gaps; no multimodal data
  - under-representation of air shipments
  - lack of intransit data for all modes of transportation
  - port definitions (Customs vs. physical infrastructure)
  - Origin and destination (physical flows vs. administrative flows; lack complete state level (and certainly metropolitan level) data)



# North American Trade: Lessons Learned

- **Lesson:** Continued reliance on trade statistics means that transportation data problems/inconsistencies generally a subset of larger reconciliation issues in international trade data
- **Lesson:** Importance of Dialogue and Coordination with the North American Customs and Trade Statistics agencies to ensure transportation community's data needs are being met.





# North American Trade: Current and Possible Initiatives

- **Initiative, Canada:** Development of weight conversion methodology and factors for commodities at the six-digit level for all methods of transportation
- **Initiative, Mexico:** Preliminary discussions with Mexican Customs to capture data on physical origin and destination of trade shipments at the state level



# North American Trade: Current and Possible Initiatives

- **Initiative, Trilateral:** North American Maritime Statistics Working Group
- **Initiative, Trilateral:** Cooperative Meetings with Customs and Trade Statistics Agencies to Address Transportation Data Requirements for North America
- **Initiative, Trilateral:** Greater Exchange of Trade Statistics for Reconciliation and Benchmarking of Transportation Data Elements, especially sub-national data

